



Gebhart v. Belton  
Claymont, Delaware, 1951

**Cast: (4 student parts)**

A Reporter (court staff)

Scene Card holder

Student from the Audience to read segregation definition

Ethel Belton: student at Howard High School

Mrs. Bulah: parent of an 8-year old student at a black elementary school

The Judge

**Reporter:** I'm waiting outside the courthouse in Claymont, Delaware with Ethel Burton. Ethel is a student at Howard High School. Ethel, why did your parents go to court?

**Ethel Belton:** Well, I guess because they wanted me to go to school here in Claymont. But, since there's no black high school in Claymont, I have to ride the bus for over an hour to get to the black high school over in Wilmington.

**Reporter:** (turn to Mrs. Bulah). What brought you to court, Mrs. Bulah?

**Mrs. Bulah:** Well, I have to drive my 8-year old daughter Shirley to school every day. But, the white kids get picked up by the bus. This is 1951 and my daughter still goes to a 1-room school house. This is segregation—plain and simple.

**Reporter:** A 1-room school house. You mean like in the movies with all the kids in every grade in one room? (to the audience) Do all of you know what segregation is?

**Student from the Audience:** (reads from card) Segregation was the practice of separating people based on the color of their skin.

**Reporter:** What will the court decide?

**Judge:** After personally visiting the schools Shirley and Ethel attend, I say that these schools are not equal. I order that all of Delaware's schools have to admit any student who applies—not only black students or white students.

This material was prepared as a part of the Indiana Supreme Court's "Courts in the Classroom" project. For more information and materials concerning the re-enactment of the cases surrounding Brown v. Board of Education, or for other curriculum materials, please contact Elizabeth Osborn, Asst. to the Chief Justice for Court History and Public Education at [eosborn@courts.state.in.us](mailto:eosborn@courts.state.in.us) or visit our website [www.in.gov/judiciary/citc](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc).